

THE CORONADO NEWS

ONLINE 24/7 @ THECORONADONEWS.COM • FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3 2023 • VOLUME 1, NUMBER 37

Leonard Maltin to host Coronado Island Film Festival gala

Film historian and critic Leonard Maltin shares highlights from his illustrious career with The Coronado News



Leonard Maltin (left) and James Stewart (right) on set of Entertainment Tonight where Maltin worked as the film reviewer for 30 years. Photo provided by Leonard Maltin.

By **MADLINE YANG**
The Coronado News

He had just gotten his first movie review book assignment, and he was only 17, a high school senior.

Two years later, he finished the first edition of a series that unbeknownst to him at the time would be wildly successful.

It would kickstart his almost 60-year-long career as a film critic and film historian.

He is Leonard Maltin.

And he is the namesake of the most prestigious award one can receive at the Coronado Island Film Festival: the Leonard Maltin Tribute Award.

He also will be back in Coronado on Nov. 11 to host the Leonard Maltin Industry Tribute Awards Gala.

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• **Coronado Island Film Festival starts Nov. 8 and runs to Nov. 12**

• **“THE BIG DUMP,” an ocean sewage crisis documentary will play at CIFF, more on Page 16**



Signs in Coronado warning people about polluted waters. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

Biden pushing for \$310M more to fix coastal sewage crisis

But the president has yet to declare a state of emergency despite pleas from California's congressional delegation, others

By **JULIETA SOTO**
The Coronado News

President Joe Biden, following pressure to declare a state of emergency on the Tijuana sewage crisis, has committed an additional \$310 million to fix and expand the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant.

U.S. Rep. Scott Peters in a statement said that Biden had included the money in an emergency supplemental funding request for fiscal year 2024.

“San Diegans have called on the federal government to put an end to this crisis for years. Today, thanks to their overwhelming advocacy and dedicated work from elected officials at every level of government, the president has responded to our pleas for help,” Peters said on Oct. 25. “Make no mistake, this is not a ‘mission accomplished’ moment.”

Peters, a Democrat whose district includes Coronado and coastal San Diego, noted that both chambers of Congress will have to ap-

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A Steward in Coronado, by name and action

A retired teacher takes education beyond the classroom through Emerald Keepers, a community-based environmental group

By **JULIETA SOTO**
The Coronado News

Amy Steward didn't stop teaching when she left the classroom.

The former Coronado educator founded Emerald Keepers in 2019, a local environmental non-profit organization, to teach the community about climate action to help future generations.

“The one thing I've learned through

travel and being with people from different cultures is that everybody wants strong families, beautiful environments, to be able to feed their families, and leave the world a better place,” said Steward. “That's what Emerald Keepers is about, leaving the world a better place.”

Following the organization's second annual 2023 Emerald Keepers Coronado Community Conference, Steward says she looks forward to building

“That's what Emerald Keepers is about, leaving the world a better place.”

- Amy Steward, founder of Emerald Keepers

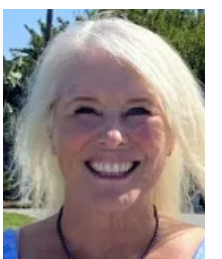
on past, current and future efforts.

“We're not criticizing anyone who's not doing this, but I do believe that we can do better,” said Steward.

While she considers that both conferences brought all sectors of the

community including faith-based groups and small business owners together to discuss sustainability, Steward says there's more to be done to

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this week

5 • sunday

Art in the Park is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Spreckels Park, 601 Orange Ave. It features more than 50 top artists in numerous genres including oil, acrylic and watercolor painting, etching, photography, wood and metal working, stained glass, ceramics and a variety of other unusual and distinctive art forms.

7 • tuesday

Coronado City Council meets at 4 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the south end of City Hall, 1825 Strand Way.

8 • wednesday

Coronado Public Library, in partnership with Warwick's bookstore, presents No. 1 New York Times Bestselling author Michael Connelly in-person discussing his hot-off-the-presses new book, "Resurrection Walk."

Connelly's book will be published the day before the event, and Coronado is his second book-tour stop after Los Angeles

The event, at 7 p.m. at the Coronado Performing Arts Center, is free and open to the public. Registration is required at Eventbrite.

CONTACT US

For news tips, story submissions and letters to the editor, contact Editor Craig Harris at craig@thecoronadonews.com or 619-539-9738

To advertise contact Ad Executive Braeden Stegman at braeden@thecoronadonews.com

THINGS TO DO

Local author Phyllis T. Morgan to debut new book

By **SOFIE FRANSEN**
The Coronado News

Coronado author Phyllis T. Morgan considers herself one of the few lucky people who knew what she wanted to do with her life at a young age, and stuck with it. "I was a born teacher," Morgan said.

In the cellar of her house in New Jersey growing up, she remembers transforming the space into a classroom with old books and maps on the wall.

Her younger self would be proud to see all of the accomplishments she made in her 50-year career in education, covering three states and several countries.

She spent her last 25 years as a leader in Oceanside schools, both as a teacher and principal and was recognized for many awards including Chamber of Commerce Administrator of the Year, San Diego Science Alliance Innovative Principal of the Year and Principal of the Year for Southern California, San Diego and Imperial Valley.

She also has been living on her



Phyllis T. Morgan will debut her new book at Bay Books on Nov. 5. Photo courtesy of Jamie Hartnett

boat in Coronado since 2012, a life-long dream of hers, and continues to race sailboats.

Her latest endeavor, a freshly published book, sprung from her parents' calls for help during the pandemic.

In response, she started writing about practical tools for at-home

learning.

But as she began the process, Morgan said she started to realize the bigger message in her words, and told herself, "If you're going to finish this book, you really want to give parents all the tools they need

» Continued on Page 5

PETS OF THE WEEK

Happy-go-lucky Koda is looking for a home

Meet Koda.

Koda came into the care of PAWS of Coronado with very little training but has been working hard and mastering new skills.

Koda is a young dog who wakes up every day ready to move. Walks, playtime, fetch, and learning new skills; Koda can't get enough.

This happy-go-lucky pup is looking for an active adopter whose energy matches his. Koda is crate trained, knows basic commands like 'sit', 'down', and 'stay', and is working hard on loose leash walking.

Koda is looking for an experienced adopter who can continue to work on his training and socializing. He would do best in an adult-only home and needs to be the only pet.

All of the animals at PAWS of Coronado are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped, vaccinated, and up-to-date on flea-preventative. Adoptions are by appointment only. If you are interested in adopting Koda or any of the other animals, please visit at www.pawsofcoronado.org. Fostering, volunteering, or donating are other ways you can help the animals.



Koda is the Pet of the Week and is looking for a home.

Photo courtesy of PAWS

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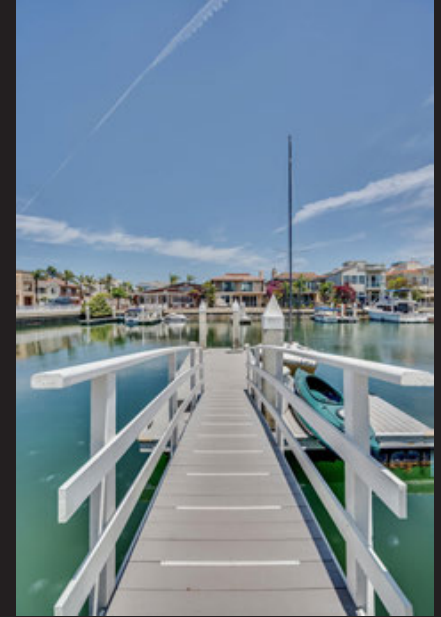
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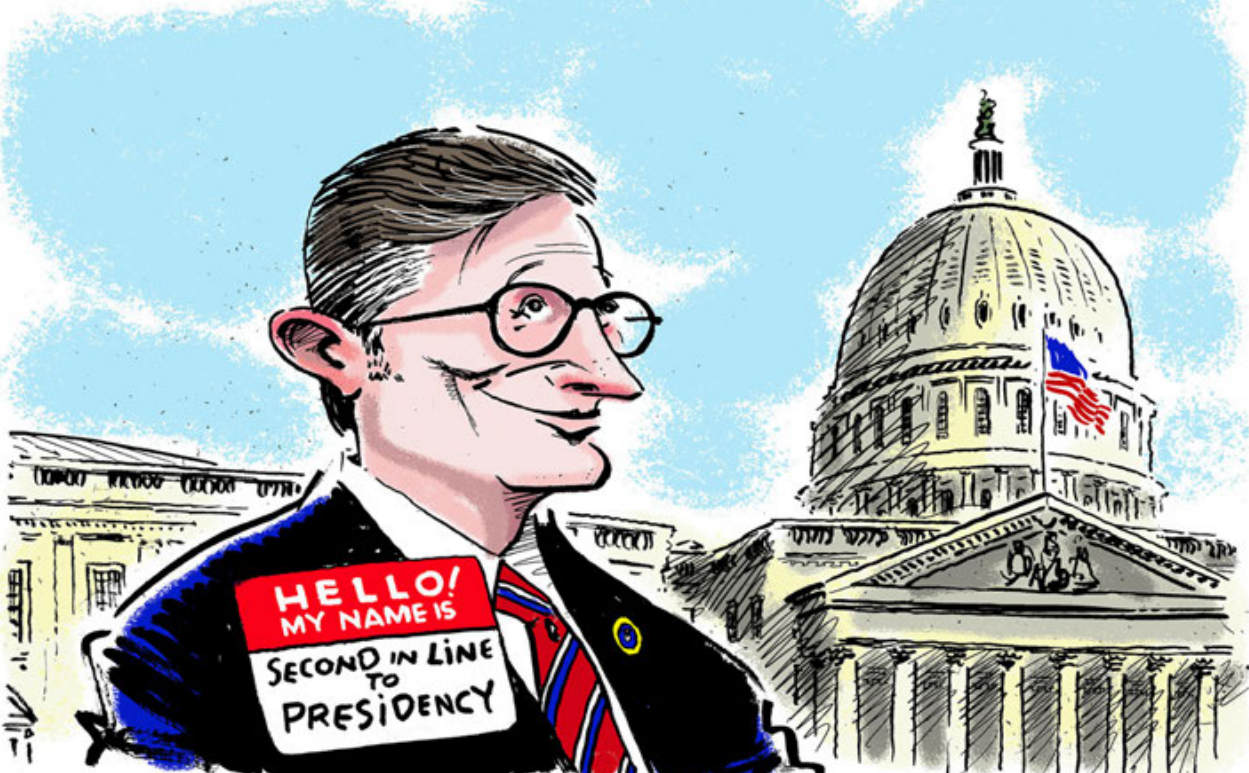
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OPINION

LISA BENSON



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CORONADO

Case dismissed against Coronado Yacht Club

By **MADLINE YANG**
The Coronado News

Longtime Coronado resident and lawyer Matthew Herron had his case dismissed in late October against the Coronado Yacht Club for not allowing public access to the facility that overlooks Glorietta Bay on Strand Way.

Herron represented himself in a suit filed earlier this year against the Coronado Yacht Club and the Port of San Diego, which manages the public property on the island.

Herron claims the Coronado Yacht Club is exclusivity at its finest, only allowing paid members onto the property to use their boat slips and other features on public land, and he wanted the property to be open to the public.

But San Diego County Superior Court Judge Matthew Braner ruled in favor of the Port of San Diego and the Coronado Yacht Club, and dismissed Herron's claims.

Herron said he plans to appeal the ruling.

Herron points to a California Coastal Commission ruling in March 2018 that says the Yacht Club "is located on public tidelands, yet has historically blocked any physical opportunity for the general public to access the site."

While the Coastal Commission,



Longtime Coronado resident and lawyer Matthew Herron had his case dismissed earlier this week against the Coronado Yacht Club for not allowing public access to the facility that overlooks Glorietta Bay on Strand Way. Staff photo by Craig Harris

a state agency with quasi-judicial control of land and public access along the state's 1,100 miles of coastline, wants the club to provide public access to it, the Yacht Club has managed to avoid that for at least the last decade or so, Herron said.

"To get a long-term lease, you have to commit to a substantial improvement. In this instance, the improvement was a replacement of the clubhouse," Herron said in an interview with The Coronado News. "And that's when the Coastal Commission said it triggered the need to allow the public access, at least

through the property."

The Yacht Club entered into these leases with the Port of San Diego in order to avoid building a pathway that was open to the public, Herron says.

However, in the Port and Coronado Yacht Club's legal response to Herron's petition, it says, "Nowhere does the [San Diego Port District Act] state, or even suggest, that private operations on District Property must allow access to the "general public.""

Port officials said they had no comment other than what was mentioned in its legal filing.



Celia Holman (L-R), Lily Enrico and Amelia Lapid sit outside Bow Ties & Hair Cuts Barber in Coronado as part of the Coronado Junior Woman's Club annual Halloween Window Painting Event. Photo courtesy of Jamie O'Grady

Junior Woman's Club sponsors Halloween Painting

The Coronado News

Following the 2023 Taste of Coronado, the Coronado Junior Woman's Club put on another community event with its annual Halloween Window Painting on Oct. 22.

Elementary school students were invited to submit their designs and were selected to paint window fronts at local Coronado businesses.

The Coronado Junior Woman's Club is an active member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, a worldwide organization.

The purpose of the club is to unite together women who are dedicated to enhancing the spirit of Coronado through educational, civic and philanthropic services.

The club also organizes the Coronado Flower Show, Thanksgiving Coloring contest, The CJWC Double Served Tennis Tournament and The Marilyn Foster Scholarship program.

Beneficiaries of the club's fundraising include Outdoor Outreach, Coronado Schools Foundation, Generate Home, Support The Enlisted Project (STEP), Coronado Promenade Concerts, Safe Harbor and KMAC Foundation.

Come alive with the muses at "Xanadu" at Coronado Playhouse

The Coronado News

"Xanadu," a roller-skating extravaganza of love, laughter, and learning, all through electric tunes, takes the stage as the final full-length production of Coronado Playhouse's 2023 season.

The roller-skating spectacular, based on the 1980 cult film of the same name, will have audiences grooving in their seats with its irresistible blend of comedy, heart, and a healthy dose of nostalgia, according to organizers.

The show began Oct. 20 and runs to Nov. 12. There are Thursday to Saturday shows at 8 p.m., and 2 p.m. shows on Saturdays and Sundays.

All performances are held at the Coronado Playhouse, 1835 Strand Way.

"Xanadu" tells the enchanting tale of Clio, a vivacious Greek muse with a flair for roller skates and leg warmers. She teams up with Sonny Malone, a chalk artist with a heart of gold, but a bit short on brains, as they embark on a journey to reignite Sonny's creativity.

Guided by Clio and faced with both helpful and hindering influences from the other muses, the unlikely duo sets out to resurrect a roller disco, leading to hilarity and heartwarming moments.

With a book by Douglas Carter Beane and music and lyrics by Jeff Lynne and John Farrar, "Xanadu:



"Xanadu" began Oct. 20 and runs to Nov. 12 at the Coronado Playhouse.

Photo courtesy of the Coronado Playhouses

The Musical" takes the stage with a soundtrack that will transport you back to the 1980s.

It features beloved hits from the original film, such as "I'm Alive," "Magic," "Suddenly," and "Dancin'," and this musical extravaganza also breathes new life into these classics with brilliant arrangements by Eric Stern.

The performance also integrates two timeless Electric Light Orchestra songs, "Strange Magic" and "Evil Woman," along with Farrar's "Have You Never Been Mellow."

Originally debuting on Broadway in 2007, "Xanadu" proved to

be an instant hit, running for over 500 performances and earning accolades, including an Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical and a Drama Desk Award for Best Book.

Its phenomenal success also earned it multiple Tony Award nominations, including Best Musical and Best Book.

Single tickets start at \$24 with group discounts available for parties of 8 or more.

Student, Military, and Senior Discounts are available. For more information, contact the box office at (619) 435-4856 or visit www.coronadoplayhouse.org.

Avenue of Heroes ceremony returns on Nov. 4

By **MADLINE YANG**
The Coronado News

The Avenue of Heroes ceremony will be returning this year to Coronado on Saturday, Nov. 4.

Founded in 2014, the program was started by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2422, the Third & Fourth Streets Neighborhood Association, the Coronado Historical Association and city officials.

The Avenue of Heroes is a military service recognition program sponsored by the city. It honors the men and women who currently or have lived in Coronado during their military careers.

Nominations are accepted on a

continuing basis and the public is encouraged to nominate a deserving veteran, living or deceased.

Banners commemorating those selected for the Avenue of Heroes ceremony are displayed along Third and Fourth streets from Orange Avenue to Naval Air Station North Island.

This area has been designated the "Avenue of Heroes."

There is just one eligibility requirement that has to be met in order to be honored in this ceremony.

Nominees should be past or present Coronado residents – living or deceased – who served or are serving in a branch of the US Armed Forces.

A nominee is considered a resident of Coronado if they presently reside

or previously resided within the city limits, including being stationed at Naval Base Coronado.

If you have someone in mind you want to nominate, you can fill out a nomination form and email it to aoh@coronado.ca.us or bring to/mail:

The event will be held from 10:30 am to noon at the Coronado High School Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Nov. 4

Doors open at 10 am.

There will be photos posted by Nov. 13, and a ceremony video posted by Nov. 8.

City of Coronado Avenue of Heroes, 1825 Strand Way, Coronado, CA 92118.

Phyllis T. Morgan

» Continued from Page 2

to incite a big change."

This big change she refers to is a movement to reinforce the role of parents, grandparents and other trusted advisors in teaching children the work and life skills they need through hands-on learning.

"It's a paradigm shift," Morgan said. "You are your child's best teacher, and everything you're teaching them, they're going to use in the future. Why not load it? Give it a purpose."

Morgan's book, "Skillful Futures: The Strategic Guide to Parenting Kids for Career Success," is a call-to-action for parents to take an active role in their child's learning.

It provides tangible advice and practical skills for helping them build their futures.

She will debut her book at a signing and meet and greet at Bay Books from 12 to 2 p.m. on Nov. 5.

Throughout her years as an educator, Morgan noticed a culture shift within schools away from hands-on skills such as home economics, trades and life skills such as career planning and budgeting—all things that children will need to know as adults.

So, in her book, she calls on parents to get more involved in building their children's skills and building their particular interests, so they will have direction in their careers.

"Jobs are going to continue to change," Morgan said. "The college community says that everybody will have 12 to 15 different jobs in their lifetime, and it may be that side hustle that saves you through some darker times. But the more skills you have in your back pocket, the more you're going to be able to navigate it."

CORONADO

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Hands-on clean water, ocean conservation learning for students

The Coronado News

On Oct. 23 and 24, more than 400 Coronado students in grades 4-6 were able to experience the renowned Wyland Clean Water Learning Center, a 1,000 square-foot science lab on wheels.

The mobile center features a 40-person movie theater and computer model simulations centered on the importance of water conservation, quality, and availability.

“I learned that you should be more respectful about treating the planet, especially trying not to dump anything that will end up draining down to the ocean. I really liked all of it,” said Emma Bey, a fourth grader in Kathy Shady’s Village Elementary class.

The mobile learning experience was parked on the playground at Village Elementary for two days as classes from Village and Silver Strand elementary schools and Christ Church Day School (CCDS) made their way through the experiential learning course.

Silver Strand Elementary fifth grade teacher Sarah Yakutis shared that the experience motivated her class to do more research into some of the things they learned.

“The content was relevant to the science standards for fifth grade, and I was thrilled that it promoted responsible citizenship and stewardship of the ocean,” she said.

“This has been a wonderful hands-on experience to get our students learning about water and how to help with water issues in our world. We really appreciate the gracious invitation for our classes to be part of this experience,” said CCDS sixth grade teacher Katie Cowan.

The mobile science lab features standards-based education modules on water quality, resources, and conservation.



Students stand in front of the Wyland Foundation Science Lab on Wheels. Coronado News Staff Photo

The total experience takes approximately 45 minutes and includes six interactive stations that are facilitated by volunteer docents.

The 12 docents over two days were students from Coronado High School and community members.

Coronado High School senior Cate Gregory served as a docent.

“I really like working with the Wyland foundation, it’s been a lot of fun. The kids have all been really excited and a lot of them have some prior knowledge so it was fun getting to teach them about things like estuaries and more about pollution and fertilizer runoff,” she shared.

CHS senior Wyatt Riebe, also a docent, agreed with Gregory. “It’s a great experience being a docent and a great opportunity for the fourth and fifth graders to be able to see and do all of the lessons in the Wyland Mobile Learning Center.”

The event was made possible through sponsorship from the Coronado Schools Foundation, Eagle Newspapers, and Emerald Keepers.

“We are grateful to the three generous sponsors and the Wyland Foundation for making this happen for our students. Engaging experiences like this are incredibly important and highly impactful,” said CUSD Superintendent Karl Mueller.

The Wyland Foundation is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and preserving the world’s ocean, waterways, and marine life. The foundation encourages environmental awareness through education programs, public arts projects, and community events.

Wyland educators Kenneth Laskan and Tony Larkin supervised the event.

“We are proud to bring our mobile exhibit to Coronado island to educate and bring people together for clean

water, and healthy oceans,” said Larkin. “The Coronado students were maybe the best we have ever seen. They have an incredible foundation of knowledge that we were able to supplement. And they are polite, curious, and engaged.”

Jennifer Rogale’s Village Elementary fourth grade class collaborated on a quote that summed up their visit.

“We loved learning at the Wyland Experience! We realized if even ONE animal goes extinct, it affects the entire ecosystem. We also learned that any time there is water, this flows eventually to the ocean. A water source can be rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, and even storm drains. We cannot leave trash anywhere if we want clean oceans for plants and animals.”

Story courtesy of Coronado Unified School District Public Information Officer Maria Simon

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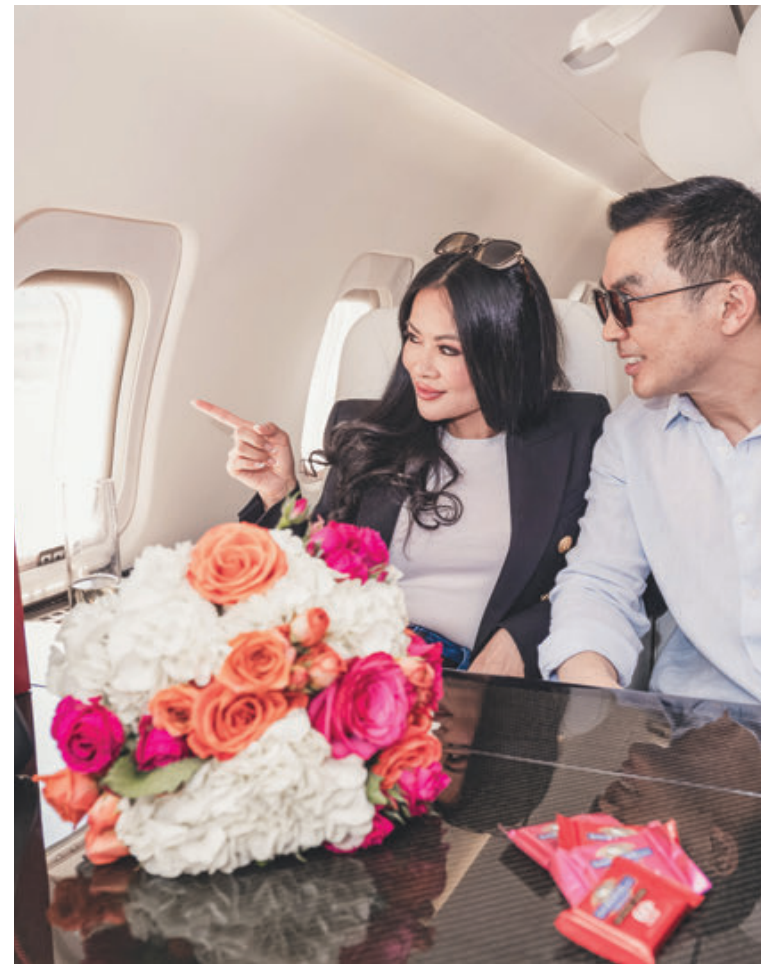


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A retired teacher takes education to the classroom and beyond

» Continued from Page 1

impact people across the city.

One hope for Steward is to host an Environmental Fair in the future.

“A really big dream of mine is to bring in all the different organizations and give kids a little booklet that they can go around and get stamps in while learning different things from each station, and then have games and different vendors,” said Steward.

Background in education continues

Steward, a former University of Oregon rower and Old Dominion University graduate, studied ecology and worked as a park ranger sharing outdoor education.

She then moved on to receive her teaching credential at San Diego State University and an administrative credential from Point Loma Nazarene University.

“I really enjoyed working with students in the classroom,” said Steward, who taught Coronado Unified elementary and middle school students and made significant contributions by integrating different programs.

Current Emerald Keepers Secretary Sharon Raffer said Steward, who she met seven years ago, is highly respected in the Coronado community as an inspiring educator.

“I met Amy at a few events and when she started Emerald Keepers I was excited to join and see how I could get involved with an organization focused on ways people can learn about and celebrate more sustainable practices for a healthy environment that future generations can also enjoy,” shared Raffer.

Since retiring in 2018, Steward has reconnected with former students who are now involved with Emerald Keepers at the high school.

Emerald Keepers has clubs at the high school as well as Coronado Middle School and there are also Emerald Keepers student interns.

Now in its third year, the Emerald Keepers internship program has grown from 12 to 18 students, according to Steward.

“I love their passion,” said Steward. “I’m really impressed that they have the time to put into this because they are doing so many different things.”

The student clubs and interns have led several projects at the schools including composting, gardening, recycling, and encouraging the use of reusable water bottles.

“I just help them, I want them to do what they’re interested in,” said Steward. “We just try to make things a little bit better... by trying to educate people and raise awareness.”

Pandemic roll-out

While COVID shut down traditional schools and many community organizations, Emerald Keepers got stronger during the pandemic.

According to the organization’s leadership team, COVID served as a gateway to environmental awareness and involvement.

And rather than halting the organization, Emerald Keepers pushed forward while working on issues such as plastics, water bottle filling stations, and the years-long sewage on local beaches.

Since then the group has worked to become the “only civic non-profit organization in the city of Coronado whose sole purpose is to address local needs related to environmental stewardship and sustainability,” according to the organization.

Christina Slentz, an Emerald Keepers board member who has a doctorate degree in International Studies, said “Amy’s willingness to venture into a new area and learn more” is what has set her apart and differentiated the group in Coronado.

“Going back to who she is as a teacher, she understands that her own learning is so vital to having an organization that can continue to grow and produce new knowledge and learning for the community,” Slentz said. “We launched during COVID... in some way, a lot of other things that were shut down created space for us to bring this conversation forward, and we were able to fill that space.”



The Steward Family; D'amy, Amy and Dan'l.

Photo courtesy of Amy Steward

Environmental action plan

Slentz added that “COVID was kind to us,” especially when the city launched its environmental action plan.

A month into the pandemic in April 2020, it was the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Emerald Keepers used that event to create a list of “50 Things You Can Do To Be An Emerald Keeper,” that featured lifestyle changes like opting for reusable materials.

“Emerald Keepers has made the environment part of the conversation of our local governments,” added Slentz.

Since then, more than 1,000 people have signed the Emerald Keepers Pledge and the organization has held a fundraiser using marine debris and shadow boxes artwork with a separate fundraiser expected early next year, according to Steward.

Family environmental ties

Steward and her husband Dan'l Steward are also members of the Rotary Club of Coronado, and she said both groups host separate and joint beach clean-ups.

Her daughter D'amy Steward also dedicates her time to protecting the natural world as an Ocean Steward and Marine Ecologist, graduating from Duke University with a double major in Biology and Environmental Science.

Steward has said D'amy is an inspiration who motivates her work with Emerald Keepers, and her daughter is a recent graduate research assistant and masters student in biology at the University of Guam working on coral restoration efforts.

Boris, Tiger and Pink Floyd

With the Delta Beach Clean coming on Nov. 9, Steward said the effort to clean the beaches began after she witnessed massive piles of trash during a paddle trip last winter.

“This is our fourth year partnering with the Navy on this CleanUp,” said Steward. “Without Emerald Keepers, the beach would not be nearly as clean as we bring people-power to do the work. In December 2022, we called for an emergency cleanup of Delta Beach. We had about 80 volunteers who heard and responded to the call for help.”

Since the group’s inception, Emerald Keepers has installed filtration devices in water recreation areas, collaborated with local youth across environmental leadership programs, and conducted educational outreach for the Coronado community and visitors.

In 2020, Emerald Keepers installed the first marine skimmer at the Coronado Yacht Club to help with water maintenance. Two years later, they installed two more at the Coronado Cays Yacht Club.

Boris, Tiger and Pink Floyd are the affectionate names of the three Marine Skimmers at the yacht clubs.

The dock-like floating dumpster’s main purpose is to scoop out plastics and marine debris to purify surrounding bodies of water, pumping 350 to 400 gallons per minute, according to Steward.

“The water back there was really murky...but after an hour of it being there you could see the bottom of the water,” said Steward about the installation of the first Marine Skimmer Boris, named after one donor’s dog.

Grants from the Rotary Club of Coronado, individual donors and the city have made this effort possible and Steward hopes to add a fourth skimmer at one of the existing locations.

“Our biggest grant came from the County Board of Supervisors for \$20,000,” said Steward. “All of these groups and supporters helped with the skimmers.”

Testing local water and air quality

Steward said the Emerald Keepers also are testing and reporting the local water and air quality each week on its website.

She said the goal is to inform the community about how many days the beaches were closed or how many days of unhealthy air quality has been in Coronado by using San Diego County data and what is gathered from purple air monitors installed by Emerald Keepers around town.

“Emerald Keepers seeks to raise awareness about water and air quality in Coronado,” reads the reports page online. “While we don’t know why our air quality is often worse than cities across the bridge, by publishing this information each week, we may begin to understand potential causes.”

Based on the air quality reports, Steward said that Coronado’s air at times has been worse than Barrio Logan and the San Diego International Airport, but she cannot point to a specific reason.

Apart from this, the organization

has gotten creative and partnered with VoiceMap, a mobile phone app that provides two separate guided walking tours. It invites individuals to become Emerald Keepers following the tours relating to Coronado’s flora and fauna and the Bayshore Bikeway.

“Everything we do is education,” said Steward. “We advocate for anything that’s clean.”

Emerald Keepers also has partnered with restaurants and local coffee shops to lead sustainable practices, and it publishes weekly educational pages in the Coronado Eagle and Journal with topics ranging from fireworks to meatless meals.

Now, Steward looks forward to the recently approved mini electric shuttle program, or the “OZ,” which she says will greatly benefit Coronado and encourage others to think about sustainability.

Steward also has written letters and spoken at San Diego County supervisor meetings, including this year when the board approved an Emergency Declaration on the Tijuana Sewage crisis.

Making Coronado a model city

Steward said Coronado has come a long way on environmental issues, but she would like the city to do even more and become a model community.

“We have good leadership in place at the city, but...they’re one of the few cities without a sustainability officer or director,” said Steward. “By investing now you actually save later.”

Still, Steward is optimistic about the community’s ability to work as a team and to get things done.

“Unfortunately, climate has been politicized but we say very clearly on our website this is apolitical for us, it’s about the future and what we need to do,” said Steward. “There’s something for everyone and nobody has to do it perfectly...Start doing something and every little bit makes a huge difference and certainly can make a difference in Coronado.”

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Come See Us!
The Chez Loma Team

Biden pushing for \$310M more to fix coastal sewage crisis

» Continued from Page 1

prove the funding.

Several members of California's congressional delegation as well as Imperial Beach and Coronado have been unified to seek additional money to solve the public health crisis that has existed for roughly 100 years.

Meanwhile, the Surfrider Foundation, an influential environmental group, has submitted 3,200 petition signatures from San Diego County residents calling for an emergency declaration at the state and federal level to address what it calls a serious public health and environmental justice crisis that brings a constant state of danger for communities at the U.S.-Mexico border.

A federal "state of emergency" would fast-track funding and construction projects and bypass typical layers of governmental reviews.

The pledged additional funding from Biden and petition signatures are the latest moves to stop the largely unmitigated flow of millions of gallons of sewage from Tijuana into the Pacific Ocean and onto the shores of Imperial Beach and Coronado.

The action comes after The Coronado News early this year wrote a five-part investigative series about the broken promises of U.S. and Mexican leaders to fix the public health crisis that has caused local residents, U.S. Border Patrol agents and Navy SEALs to become ill and hospitalized.

In the past months, Peters has worked to secure more funding from the Biden administration as the price tag has ballooned to roughly \$1 billion to fix the aging wastewater treatment plant and to pay for other public works projects to stop the sewage flow.

With much ballyhoo, the United States and Mexico last summer announced they had agreed to spend \$474 million, which was expected to solve the problem of capturing and treating wastewater from the growing metropolis of Tijuana. The U.S. would be paying \$330 million.

Among the plans then was doubling



San Diego County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Nora Vargas, San Diego County Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Terra Lawson-Remer and Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre at a press conference in June regarding the proposal to formally declare a state of emergency related to the transboundary sewage pollution crisis.

Photo courtesy of Board of Supervisors Media Staff

the capacity at the treatment plant to handle at least 50 million gallons of raw sewage daily from Tijuana.

However, the plant has had numerous failures this year during heavy storms.

That prompted San Diego County congressional leaders, including Peters, in early October to request a detailed breakdown from the U.S. State Department about how the treatment plant reached its current deterioration and to get a better understanding of what has become a public health crisis, according to the letter dated Oct. 6.

Meanwhile, Gov. Gavin Newsom also has made requests to Biden, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries to expedite access to \$300 million that had already been appropriated by Congress to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in early 2020 to start work on the plant and other projects.

Newsom underlined the importance of rehabilitation and expansion of the overtaxed treatment plant in San Ysidro in addition to asking for more federal funds. However, the letter made no mention of a state of emergency.

During a California Coastal Commission meeting in August, several South Bay, Imperial Beach, and Coronado residents voiced support to con-

tinue to urge Newsom to issue a state of emergency, which they said would accelerate federal funding.

But in early October, Newsom's office told California Coastal Commission Executive Director Kate Huckelbridge why the governor had stopped short of declaring a state of emergency.

"A state proclamation of emergency cannot accelerate federal work needed on this federal facility that is in a federally-controlled area on an international border," Newsom's Legal Affairs Secretary David Sapp wrote on Oct. 10. "A state proclamation of emergency is not necessary to trigger a federal emergency declaration to support the federal response to this crisis."

Still, that same day, the Surfrider Foundation submitted its petition to Newsom and Biden calling for an emergency declaration to address the public health and environmental justice crisis at our border, according to a press release.

"We appreciate Gov. Newsom shining a light on this issue, but that alone is not enough. We are desperate for more – more legislative solutions and more work on the ground to finally fix these problems and protect our communities," said Surfrider Foundation Clean Border Water Now Lead Volunteer Bethany Case, an Imperial Beach Resident.

Sara Davidson, another Surfrider official, said "Biden has the authority to declare an emergency whenever he deems public health and safety in his jurisdictions to be threatened."

She noted the pollution is "in the air, it's in their homes, it's affecting every aspect of community life and well-being. If ever there was a public health and environmental justice emergency, this would be it."

Imperial Beach resident Leon Benham, who has followed this issue since 2014, doesn't believe a federal state of emergency declaration is needed.

"The emergency declaration is a backwards approach and resembles a shoot, ready, aim philosophy pushed by large special interests from Mexico which are put ahead of California citizens who live along the coastal border," he told The Coronado News.

Meanwhile, San Diego County Supervisor Chairwoman Nora Vargas and Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre on Oct. 20 wrote to Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, thanking him for his environmental work.

The letter cited local efforts to help mitigate the transboundary sewage crisis, including San Diego County declaring a state of emergency and ongoing efforts to get the American government on board with a federal declaration.

Vargas and Aguirre also asked López Obrador to continue to make rehabilitation efforts of the sewage plant at Tijuana's Punta Bandera a priority, writing it would result in significant benefits to both sides of the border.

"Agradecemos profundamente el compromiso que se le ha otorgado a las comunidades fronterizas y a cuidar el medio ambiente y respetuosamente solicitamos que Punta Bandera siga siendo prioridad," reads the letter in Spanish. "Reemplazar esta instalación tiene el potencial de reducir significativamente el flujo de aguas residuales y de mejorar la calidad del agua y el aire en ambos lados de la frontera."

Two big author events coming in November

New York Times bestselling author Michael Connelly will speak Nov. 8, and local author Stu Stall will discuss his new book on Nov. 6

The transition into November is bringing with it two noteworthy author events—New York Times bestselling author Michael Connelly and local author Stu Stall.

First, at 7 p.m. in the Winn Room of the Coronado Public Library on Nov. 6, local author Stu Stall will discuss his new book "Hell House: True Stories From the Redheaded Stepchild."

Stall's book is a memoir from the redheaded step-child himself, outlining his mom's tragic death and the events that followed.

The memoir is full of tales of growing up in the late 1960s and early 1970s with parties, surfing, girls and all the fun you could have growing up in Coronado.

Story after story, all action-filled, it will make you laugh, cry and wonder how it could even happen. Abuse and cruelty were part of the daily bread. Learn how the redheaded step-child won in the end and what the cost was.

And, No. 1 New York Times bestselling author Michael Connelly is coming in-person to discuss his hot-off-the-press new book, "Resurrection Walk" at 7 p.m. at the Coronado Performing Arts Center on Nov. 8.

Connelly is the author of 38 previous novels, including No. 1 New York Times bestsellers "Desert Star," "The

Dark Hours" and "The Law of Innocence."

His books, which include the Harry Bosch series, the Lincoln Lawyer series, and the Renée Ballard series, have sold more than 85 million copies worldwide.

Connelly is a former newspaper reporter who has won numerous awards for his journalism and his novels.

He will be speaking on his newest release, "Resurrection Walk" on Nov. 8.

Connelly's book will be published on the day before the event, and Coronado is only his second book-tour stop after Los Angeles.

The event is put on by the Coronado Public Library in partnership with Warwick's Bookstore. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required on Eventbrite.

Preferred seating is available with a pre-order of "Resurrection Walk."

All books purchased at the event and in advance will be pre-signed by the author, but Connelly will personalize books for attendees on a first-come, first-served basis from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m.

Check in will open at 6:15.

Information courtesy of the Coronado Public Library.

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Leonard Maltin to host Coronado Island Film Festival gala

» Continued from Page 1

It was the “Leonard Maltin’s Movie Guide” and it lasted for the next 45 years, updated almost every year since he started it.

Maltin in talking with The Coronado News says he attributes his success during the past six decades to being lucky, but with the understanding that when opportunities knock, he has to be ready to answer it – which is exactly how he got involved with the film festival.

“Well, I’m a big believer in fate and also a big believer in serendipity. Things happen sometimes for a reason,” Maltin says. “I’ve been blessed. I’ve been lucky in several junctures in my life, things that I could not have planned happened to me that have changed my life.”

Opportunity, in the form of the founder of the Coronado Island Film Festival, Doug St. Denis, knocking on Maltin’s door and inviting him to a festival fundraiser in 2016.

He went, and clearly made an impact because the rest is history.

Aside from having the award named after him, the gala to end the festival was named after him as well.

“My estimation is that the festival was a hit from day one because of the community support...We liked the feeling we got from the locals,” Maltin said in a video interview from early October.

Being the man of film history that he is, Maltin has had more than his fair share of the film world and he said he recognized that Coronado and the people were special.

“That’s been my yardstick for measuring a festival’s success. The people get involved and in Coronado, they do. They come, they show up,” Maltin says.

In a similar way, Maltin has shown up consistently in his own life.

He knew he wanted to be writing about film when he studied journalism at New York University, but even after writing three books by the time he graduated college, he says he didn’t think he would be able to make a living doing that for the rest of his life.



Leonard Maltin by his star in Coronado in 2018.

Photo provided by Leonard Maltin.

He said he really wanted to be a teacher and thought that he would maybe teach film, but he didn’t have a master’s degree.

But, once again in his early career, opportunity knocked and he showed up and answered.

Maltin was on the Today Show promoting one of his books when “somebody 3,000 miles away in Los Angeles at Paramount Studios saw the interview, and recommended me to the new producer of a young show on his first season called Entertainment Tonight.”

He and his wife moved from New York to California, which he says was never in the plan, but he never missed an opportunity.

Maltin became the film reviewer for Entertainment Tonight for the next 30 years.

“You know the expression, ‘man plans and God laughs’. We’ve followed whatever path lay open,” Maltin says.

However, for being so young and never intending to be on TV as a film critic, he says he never felt the imposter syndrome – that he shouldn’t be doing what he was doing, or saying what he was saying.

“I amaze myself sometimes, my younger self,” Maltin says with a big laugh. “I marvel at what I had the nerve to do.”

He does credit this to the fact that he was never really put in a situation with subjects he was not well versed in.

“Had I been asked to write lengthy essays about European or Asian cinema, I would have been out of my depth. Maybe I could have if I set my mind to it, but I never was put to that test,” Maltin says.

“For which I am grateful,” he adds with a small smile.

And Maltin is very content in the fields and subjects he worked in during his career.

He says he’s fortunate he was able to do something he loved and has been able to make a living off of it. And, he was able to do it by transitioning from writing books to being on TV.

Being on TV as a movie reviewer was not anything he expected to do, even if he had been on TV for his book reviews.

Yet, doing movie reviews live was very different, he said.

“There was the excitement and the immediacy of it being a daily television show. I spent a year and a half to two years writing books, hoping to get some response,” Maltin says. “And now, I would work on researching and shooting and editing a story, and the next day it would be on the air. The next morning I could call a friend in New York who would say, ‘Oh, I liked that story last night.’”

And that’s not the only variety he’s had in his life.

He finally became a teacher, something he only dreamed about doing after he graduated college.

That began 25 years ago, when he became a professor in performing arts at the University of Southern California.

“It’s genuinely rewarding, and I get more out of it than I put into it, actually. Talking to 300 20-somethings keeps you on your toes,” Maltin says.

He continues to teach every Thursday night.

And he’s not done inventing himself. Maltin transitioned into podcasting about a decade ago with his daughter, Jessie, which he says is fun as he gets to work with her every day and see how she’s grown into being an interviewer herself.

As for the rest of his life?

Well, for the near future, Maltin will be at the Coronado Island Film Festival gala on Nov. 11 at the Leonard Maltin Tribute Gala.

And past that, Maltin says he’s looking forward to watching more good movies.

“I despair for the lack of good movies,” Maltin says, the film critic in him coming through the Zoom screen.

“Is that asking too much?” he quips.

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NAVY

EOD Mobile Unit 3 welcomes new leader

Cmdr. Warren Fogler relieved Cmdr. Andrew Serfass in front of friends, family members, and EODMU-3 personnel in Coronado

DVIDS

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 3 welcomed its newest leader during a change-of-command ceremony at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado on Oct. 20.

Cmdr. Warren Fogler relieved Cmdr. Andrew Serfass in front of friends, family members, and EODMU-3 personnel as part of an outdoor ceremony at the unit's headquarters.

Serfass took command of EODMU-3 in January 2022.

As a component of EOD Group One, EODMU-3 provides EOD platoons to eliminate hazards from aviation, surface, ground, underwater and improvised ordnance.

While serving as its commanding officer, he led a team of 168 personnel on a deployment to U.S. 5th Fleet where they conducted a wide range of operations in support of the fleet and joint forces.

He also oversaw the development of training innovations that focus on preparing the unit's Sailors for future combat operations.

"This is by far the best assembled team under [EOD] Group one," said Serfass. "I couldn't have picked a better leader or person to turnover this command to. I am so incredibly grateful to be standing here today."

Serfass' next assignment is at U.S. Special Operations Command in Tampa, Fla.

Keynote speaker, Commodore, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group One (EODGRU-1), Capt. Wade Hilderbrand said Serfass contributed to the success of the EOD community with his leadership.



The oncoming Commanding Officer of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Three (EODMU-3), Cmdr. Warren H. Fogler, salutes as he is piped ashore onboard Naval Amphibious Base Coronado on Oct. 20. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kevin Tang

"We honor those who have gone before us by leaving a place better than we found it. Andy is turning over an outstanding team," said Hilderbrand. "Thank you Andy, for your hard work and dedicated service. I wish you the best in the future."

In his first address as EODMU-3's commanding officer, Fogler said he looks forward to leading a unit with a legacy of high standards.

"Andy, you are a tough act to follow," said Fogler. "Watching you with the team here has been inspiring. I know they'll miss you both but I'll do my best."



Cmdr. Andrew C. Serfass, the outgoing commander of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Three (EODMU-3), delivers remarks during his change of command ceremony onboard Naval Amphibious Base Coronado on Oct. 20. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kevin Tang

Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kevin Tang

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NAVY



Capt. Laurie Scott, Commanding Officer for NAVFAC Southwest, joins Capt. Newt “Bomb” McKissick, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Coronado, and representatives from Fleet Readiness Center Southwest, as well as RQ Construction for a groundbreaking ceremony for a new aircraft hangar at Naval Base Coronado on Oct. 13.

Photo provided by Katie Cadio.

NAVFAC Southwest breaks ground on new \$52M aircraft hangar

DVIDS

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Southwest and its partners broke ground on a new aircraft hangar at Naval Base Coronado, Naval Air Station North Island on Oct. 13.

The new hangar will be built by RQ Construction, LLC, which was awarded a contract on June 15, 2023.

“RQ Construction’s track record across the Southwest is long and strong and we are proud to have partners like them, who take pride in de-

livering quality construction to our installation commanders,” said Capt. Laurie Scott, Commanding Officer for NAVFAC Southwest.

The \$51.9 million state-of-the-art building will take about two years to complete and will add much-needed capacity for aircraft repair and maintenance, officials said.

Once completed, the new single-story depot-level hangar will enable sailors to work on large-wing aircraft like the Osprey, a task currently performed in a hangar that was built at

NASNI during WWII.

“This new facility is representing a fresh start for naval aviation at NAS North Island,” said Capt. Newt “Bomb” McKissick, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Coronado. “In building this hangar, we are taking an important next step towards innovation and supporting the fleet, a crucial move at a time when added capabilities of our strike groups are in high demand.”

In addition to hangar space, the facility will include shop space, storage, and administrative offices.

These features are crucial components that will allow personnel to complete planned maintenance interval processes on some of the Navy’s most crucial aircraft in a timely manner, officials said.

About NAVFAC Southwest: NAVFAC Southwest supports planning, design, construction, real estate, environmental and public works for U.S Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force and other supported federal agencies in Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado.

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SPORTS



ABOVE: The Islanders will be saying goodbye to seven seniors. **BELOW MIDDLE:** Coronado High School's volleyball team focused on mental toughness for the match against Mission Vista. **BOTTOM:** Junior Sadie Proctor led the offense from the outside and back row. Staff photos by Sofie Fransen.

Coronado High's volleyball season comes to a close in CIF playoffs

Coronado lost to Mission Vista in the first round playoff match on Oct. 24, and the team says goodbye to seven seniors

By **SOFIE FRANSEN**
The Coronado News

OCEANSIDE – Coronado started off hot here against Mission Vista in the Islanders CIF San Diego Section Division II volleyball playoff match on Oct. 24, winning the first set 25-21 before losing headway in the next three, 16-25, 21-25 and 20-25.

The away match was a carbon copy of Coronado's first round of playoffs last season, where Mission Vista also beat them in four sets on its home court.

Mission Vista had a returning six, according to Coronado Coach Adeile Ahmu, including junior 6-foot middle and right side Sara Dukes, who snuck around Coronado's block, and senior 5-foot 10 setter MeganJo Martin who occasionally attacked on the second touch.

But the Islanders (19-16) did not go down easily in the single-elimination playoffs.

"I'm really happy with how hard we fought. We had a really tough league this year. We had to fight for every game," said captain Emily Page, a 5-foot 8 junior setter and recent Biola University commit.

Page said that prior to the match, the team talked about their collective mindset to focus on mental toughness—an attribute especially needed against Mission Vista's loud student section decked out in red, white and blue.

The noise, however, did not phase Page as she stepped back to serve on Mission Vista's game point in the fourth set with Mission Vista ahead 24-19. She then aced her next serve, bumping the score to 24-20, before Sara Dukes of Mission Vista finished off the match.

"Normally there's not a large student crowd at games," Ahmu said. "That's a mental part of the game that we talked about in the beginning of today, and I was very proud of them pulling out of it and fighting back."

Every single point of Tuesday's game highlighted the Islander's scrap-



piness.

At the net, 6-foot 1 senior and middle Ruby Deckman had several key blocks and kills, giving the team momentum to climb out of a 9 point hole

in game four.

And junior Sadie Proctor, a 5-foot 10 outside hitter and captain, was the team's go-to for the offense, consistently attacking from the outside and

"I'm really happy with how hard we fought. We had a really tough league this year. We had to fight for every game."

- Emily Page, Captain

back row.

On defense, sophomore libero Avalon Haro went up against Mission Vista's strong offense, while Page got Mission Vista out of system by throwing the ball over on the second touch.

While Tuesday's loss brought the end of the 2023 season, it also meant saying goodbye to seven seniors.

"I think that's what we're going to be losing the most, our height at the net, and the leadership that they have, because they're very calm seniors," Ahmu said. "They're all very even keeled; they don't stress out too much."

A collected presence is something that senior Emily Wygal specialized in for the season and the demanding match.

"For myself, when it's getting really tight, I try to keep myself focused and calm," Wygal said, adding that the little things make the biggest difference in moments of pressure.

Page said she is really sad to be losing Wygal next year, since the two of them have been playing together since middle school.

"All of our seniors are really talented, not just volleyball wise, but academically," Page said.

SPORTS

Senior Night honors seven water polo players

Jake Walker, Luke Machin, David Abdul Samad, Spencer Williams, Boone Barnum, Ryder Smith and Kellen O'Callahan were recognized

The Coronado News

Seven seniors were honored on Oct. 24 as the Coronado High School water polo team took on Santana, which defeated the Islanders 15-7.

Jake Walker, Luke Machin, David Abdul Samad, Spencer Williams, Boone Barnum, Ryder Smith and Kellen O'Callahan were the seven seniors recognized.

The Islanders were 9-14 after the match against Santana.



Senior David Abdul Samad blocks a shot from Santana, with senior Kellen O'Callahan behind him and senior captain Spencer Williams in the cage.

Photos courtesy of Kelly Moore



The water polo team on the sidelines during Oct. 24 game.



Senior and captain Luke Machin (10) was honored at water polo's senior night on Oct. 24.

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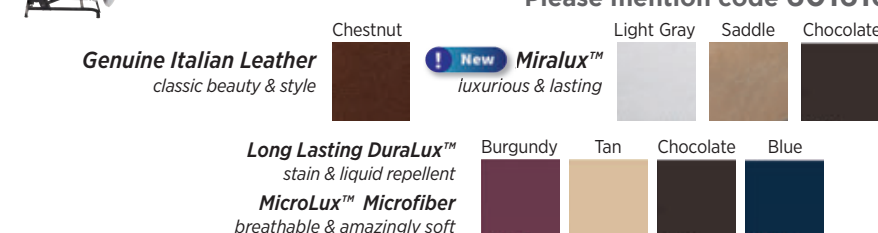
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LEFT: Senior Jake Walker (12) guards Santana High.

LOWER LEFT: Senior Ryder Smith (17) takes a shot and was honored at the Oct. 24 game.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Senior captain Spencer Williams (1) locks down the cage.

Photos courtesy of Kelly Moore



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LIFE ON THE ISLAND

“THE BIG DUMP,” an ocean sewage crisis documentary will play at CIFF

Coronado's Brett Davis and Sarah Morga, and Larry Delrose spent four years on the film that will show Nov. 10. at CIFF

Coronado News Staff

The Coronado Island Film Festival will be screening “THE BIG DUMP – OUR PACIFIC OCEAN IN CRISIS” on Nov. 10.

“THE BIG DUMP” is a powerful documentary that discusses the urgent Pacific Ocean sewage crisis stemming from the Mexican border into San Diego waters, according to CIFF officials.

It will be shown at 1 p.m. in the Coronado Performing Arts Theater, 650 D. Ave., with welcoming remarks. There also will be a question and answer discussion with the filmmakers around 1:45 p.m.

It's produced by Brett Davis and Sarah Morga, a married couple who are the founders of IQPodcasts, and Larry Delrose, known as “Mr. Entertainment” for his work with “Coronado's Talent” and putting on shows at the Coronado Shores.

The Coronado trio spent four years working on the film. The director is Allen Carrasco.

The film sheds light on the millions of gallons of sewage spill down the California Coast every day, sickening sea life, pets, and people, considered one of the worst environmental crises in the history of the United States, according to CIFF.

The documentary comes amid a groundswell of support from elected officials, residents and environmental groups who are urging President Joe Biden to declare a state of emergency



Coronado's “Mr. Entertainment” Larry Delrose and IQPodcasts founders Brett Davis and Sarah Morga discuss their documentary on the Tijuana sewage crisis.

File staff photo by Madeline Yang

over the raw sewage flowing from Tijuana into the Pacific Ocean.

The Coronado News earlier this year

published a five-part investigative series about the broken promises of U.S. and Mexican leaders to fix the public health

crisis that has caused local residents, U.S. Border Patrol agents and Navy SEALs to become ill and hospitalized.

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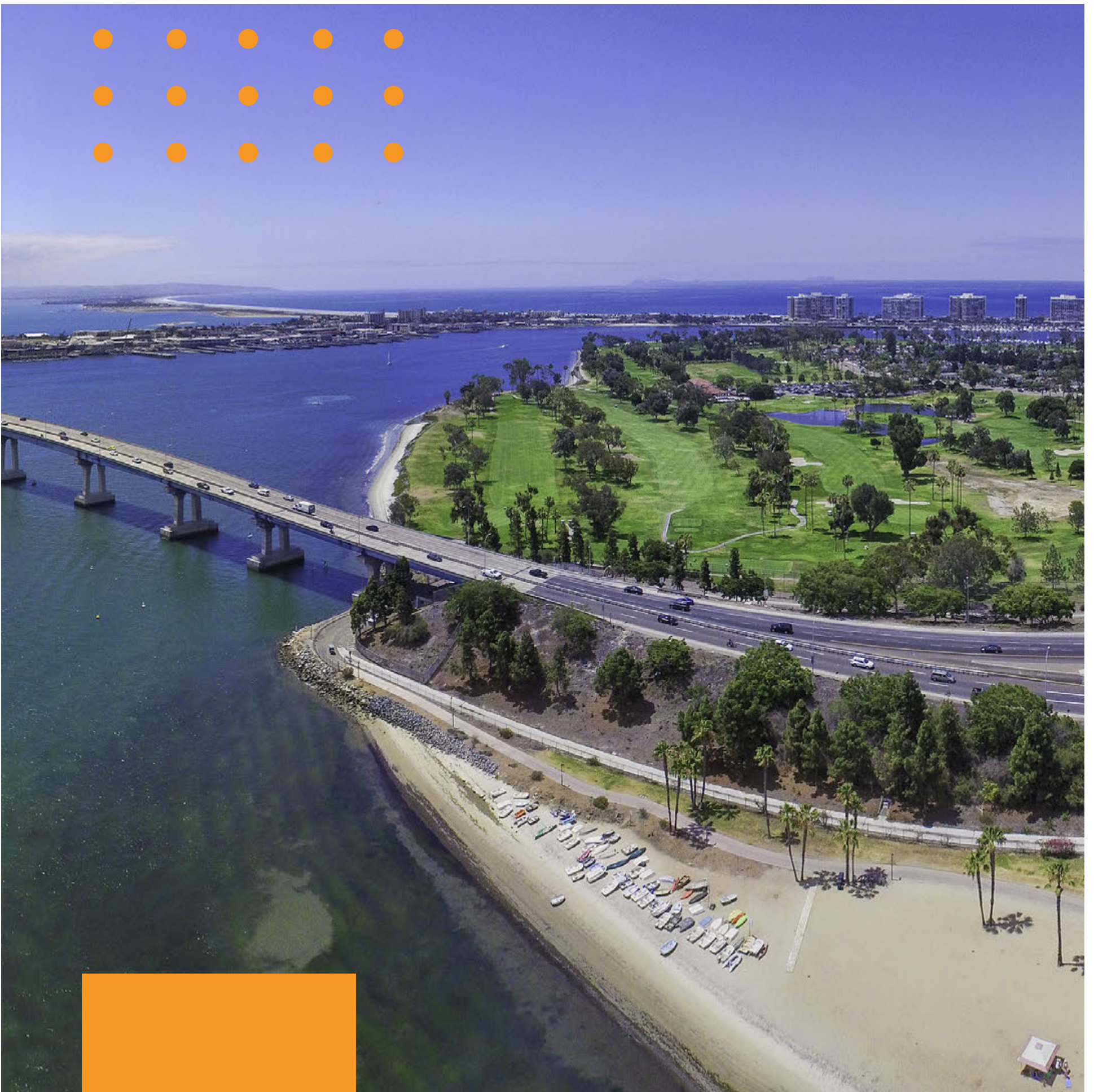
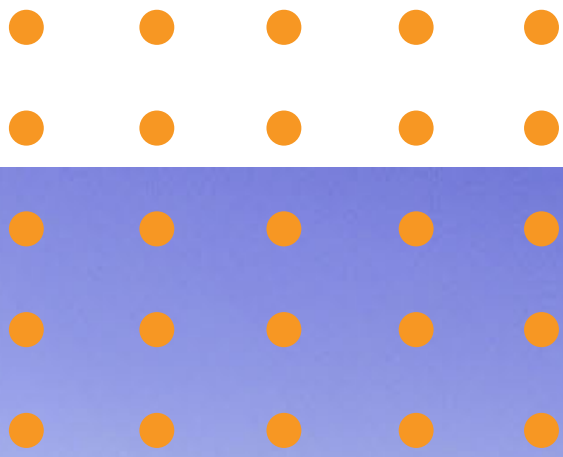
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